

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

September 19, 2005

PRESENT:

Ruth I. Clough, Selectman
Douglas W. Lyon, Selectman
Mark Kaplan, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob & DJ Lavoie, New London residents
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Lyon moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2005. Second Ms. Clough and approved 3-0.

Street Lighting Committee: Ms. Levine said that the Street Lighting Committee had met on Thursday, September 15, to review the various options for converting New London's street lights to more efficient and cost-effective lights. The committee, chaired by Mark Vernon, narrowed the options to two and will bring those to the Selectmen at their meeting on October 3. Once the committee receives direction from the Selectmen, they would like to hold a public information session to get feedback on their proposals. Ms. Levine said that she has included the cost of conversion in the 2006 budget but it may be less than anticipated and the budget will be adjusted accordingly. The Street Lighting Committee has recommended the removal of 44 lights town-wide. Bob Lavoie asked if the committee recommended any additions. Ms. Levine said that they had not, although during the course of discussion one resident suggested adding a light at the corner of Old Main Street and Route 11/King Hill Road.

Ms. Levine said that some people thought this committee was also reviewing ordinances for lighting of private homes and businesses, but that is incorrect. Ms. Levine said that should be something that the Planning Board considers as part of the annual zoning revisions.

Chair Kaplan asked if the Street Lighting Committee had worked with the Main Street Committee to coordinate the possible burying of utilities. Ms. Levine said that Stefan Timbrell is on both committees and that the coordination of the two projects is one item that has to be discussed with the Selectmen on October 3. The Street Lighting Committee would like to hold off on Main Street until it had a better idea of future plans, but PSNH wants all of the lights replaced within one year (Mark Vernon will find out when the clock starts ticking).

OLD BUSINESS:

Elkins Planning Workshop: Ms. Levine said that the Elkins subcommittee will meet this afternoon to review the notes from Saturday's workshop and give guidance to Victoria Boundy in drafting the conceptual plan for Elkins. Mr. Lyon said he was very pleased with the workshop and thought it was an extremely valuable part of the planning process. There was a lot of give and take and good suggestions

that came through. Ms. Levine said the draft plan would be presented at a public hearing on October 27 at Whipple Town Hall. Chair Kaplan said it would be helpful to circulate the draft ahead of time, and Ms. Levine said she thinks it will be available in time for residents to review before the public hearing.

Bob Lavoie asked if anyone who did not live in New London or Elkins attending the workshop, and Ms. Clough replied that a few Wilmot residents were in attendance. There were about 60 people total, which the Selectmen agreed was a great turnout.

Community Center: Ms. Levine referred to an e-mail she had received that morning from Yah Maguire commending the Selectmen on Saturday's workshop and suggesting a similar program for discussing the Community Center proposal on Pleasant Street. The Selectmen discussed whether it would be appropriate for the Selectmen to hold a public hearing on a private project. Ms. Levine said the Planning Board is still considering the site plan review for the project, and although those meetings are public, the hearings will focus on whether the project meets the planning and zoning requirements and not on the broader question of public acceptance of the project.

Chair Kaplan said he does not see the similarities between the Elkins workshop and the Community Center project, since one was a town planning process and the other is a private project. Ms. Clough said the Community Center is a good example of why townspeople need to be involved in the Master Plan process, since the Zone Districts and allowed uses arise from the provisions of the Master Plan. The Town has to look ahead and not respond when the train is in the station. Mr. Lyon said that in the limited cases in which the Selectmen have wondered about public support, there has been overwhelming support, such as that indicated by the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Ms. Levine said that if Town funding becomes part of the equation – and the Selectmen have already conceptually discussed the Recreation Department's budget being used to support the operations of the Community Center – then the budget hearings might be the appropriate place for more public discussion. The Town's role will become more clear as discussions between the Town, Community Center, and New London Outing Club progress. Mr. Lyon agreed that now is not the time for the Selectmen to hold public hearings on a private project, but if and when the Town becomes more involved then it would be appropriate. Ms. Clough suggested that people who want more of a public discussion could approach the Community Center organizers and encourage them to hold a public meeting. Mr. Lyon also encouraged people to attend the Planning Board public hearings.

Bob Lavoie asked if the Town anticipates funding any part of the project. Ms. Levine said that it is expected that the Recreation Department would either become part of the Community Center or operate in close relationship with the Community Center, so the Selectmen have talked about whether the \$80,000 cost to operate the Recreation Department would go to the Community Center operations. Mr. Lyon said that the Town is encouraging the Community Center and Outing Club to coordinate efforts to reduce costs as well. Bob Lavoie agreed that the Town should have its "oar in the water" at this point rather than later in the process.

Sidewalk Committee: Ms. Levine said the Sidewalk Committee had met last week to talk about the start of the project at Newport & County roads. The Town has put out its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the conceptual design of the intersection and sidewalks and proposals are due on September 30. The Sidewalk Committee will review the proposals and determine whether any interviews should be conducted. Ms. Levine held a site visit on September 14 and about 11 engineers were present. Ms. Dube asked if the Town anticipated that many proposals, and Ms. Levine replied that for the last project about 15 engineers attended the site visit and only five or six submitted proposals.

Ms. Levine said that the Sidewalk Committee, which for some time has consisted of Sue Andrews, Debbie Stanley, John Clough, Richard Lee, and Bob Andrews, will invite representatives from the

Gallery, Hilltop, and other nearby businesses to join the Committee for this project. The Selectmen asked if this project included a sidewalk from Newport Road to New London Hospital, and Ms. Levine said that it did not although she agrees that a sidewalk there would be appropriate. During the site visit, an elderly gentleman ran across Newport Road to buy a newspaper at Jake's. She will talk to DOT about whether funds could be opened up to add that portion to the project.

Ms. Clough asked for an update on Main Street sidewalks. Ms. Levine said that this fall Richard Lee plans to install sidewalks in front of the proposed New London Mini-Mart, improve the sidewalk in front of Aesthetics, and extend the sidewalk up to the College Café. In 2006, the budget will include extending the sidewalk from Tracy Library to Hayes Road, and in 2007 the Town would like to extend the sidewalk to Newport Road. She will re-approach businesses that did not agree to participate in cost-sharing this year in the hopes that they reconsider. However, if they do not agree, she does not want their lack of cooperation to hold up the project, but also wants to avoid a situation in which cooperating businesses contribute to the cost and non-cooperative businesses do not.

Ms. Levine said the Sidewalk Committee also discussed extending a bike path through the Hospital property from Parkside Road to Newport Road, and the Hospital has conceptually agreed to that idea as it looks at its future use of the property. John Clough has lobbied for a bike route, and the Committee discussed creating a bike route that circumvents Main Street but allows access, such as from Barrett Road and Cougar Court.

There being no further business, Chair Kaplan moved to go into non-public session to discuss litigation pursuant to RSA 91:A-3(e). Second Mr. Lyon. Roll call vote: Kaplan – yes; Clough – yes; Lyon – yes.

Upon returning to public session, the Board of Selectmen signed the documents below:

Building Permits:

- Linda & Gregory Potter, 25 Aspen Lane (Map 074, Lot 042), permit to finish railings, trim and lighting – Approved (Permit 04-133)
- John D. Sheehan 2001 Revocable Trust, 47 Checkerberry Lane (Map 044, Lot 026), permit to install new window in kitchen, replace existing second floor window, upgrade insulation and install dishwasher – Approved (Permit 05-114)
- Mary H. Morris Revocable Trust, 201 South Cove Road (Map 045, Lot 032), permit to add small addition to enlarge master bathroom and entry way – Approved (Permit 05-115)
- Mindy B. Mayville, 123 Mountain Road (Map 112, Lot 008), permit to replace store stairs with wood or wood-like stairs and landing – Approved (Permit 05-116)

Sign Permit Applications:

- Direct Capital, 428 Main Street, permanent sign for MoRae Jewelers (15 SF) - Approved
- Tracy Memorial Library, 304 Main Street, temporary sign for Saturday, October 1 for Community Garden Plant Sale - Approved

Other Items for Signature:

- Application for use of Whipple Hall for the production of "Christmas Carol" on December 10, 11, & 15 (rehearsal), performance on December 16 and 17 - Approved
- Disbursement & Payroll Voucher for the week of September 19, 2005

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Levine
Town Administrator